the balance of payments situation in 1985-86. Taking account of developments in foreign trade, it had emphasised the need for sustained and vigorous efforts to contain the trade deficit through more rapid growth of exports in line with the Seventh Plan target. The trade deficit projected in the Seventh Plan amounted to Rs. 34,700 crores in 1984-85 prices.

News-item captioned 'Imports hit Capital Goods Industry'

765. SHRI MEHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Imports hit capital goods industry', which appeared in the Times of India of the 29th August, 1986; and

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the import policy relating to capital goods in the light of the reported statement of the President of the Confederation of Engineering Industry, if so, what are the details of the decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The said report appeared on 30th August, 1986.

(b) The import policy for capital goods is under constant review to meet the objectives of maximisation of production and exports and safeguarding the legitimate interests of domestic industry and changes in the policy are notified from time to time.

Introduction of computers in banks

766. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of various bank employees' unions called on him on August 29, 1986 to express their apprehension against computerisation and its likely effect on employment opportunities;

(b) if so, what submissions were made by them; and

(c) what assurances were given to allay their fears and what steps have since been taken by Government to safeguard the interest of those workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The representatives of the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) and the Indian National Bank Employees Congress (INBEC) had met the Finance Minister on 28th August, 1986 to discuss matters relating to mechanisation and computerisation in the banking industry and rendering better customer service. During the discussions some of the representatives of the Unions had expressed certain fears that mechanisation and computerisation in the banking industry might lead to reduction in employment opportunities and possible retrenchment.

The Finance Minister drew the attention of the representatives of the Unions to settlement arrived at between the management of banks and the unions in September, 1983 wherein it had been stated that there would be no retrenchment as a result of mechanisation and if there is any displacement of staff it shall be kept to the minimum and the staff so displaced will be kept in the same city/

town. Finance Minister also allayed their fears about likelihood of reduced employment opportunities.

Seizure of heroin etc. from Pakistan border

767. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of heroin, charas and other narcotics smuggled from Pakistan across Rajasthan border has been seized during the past four months;

(b) if so, what are the details of the seizures made; and

(c) what preventive steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to reports made available to the Government, the details of the seizures of drugs smuggled from Pakistan across Rajasthan border from July to October, 1986 are as under:—

Name of drug	Quantity seized (in kg)
Charas (Hashish)	1,758
Heroin	683

Figures Provisional

(c) In addition to appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned and also with the drug law enforcement agencies of USA, UK, etc. is maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. The intelligence machinery has been geared up and the field formations remain vigilant to check the smuggling of drugs. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which has come into force with effect from 14-11-1985, provides for deterrent punishments for drug trafficking offences. A new organisation called, "Narcotics Control Bureau" has been set up for effectively co-ordinating the action against illicit traffic in drugs.

Setting up of a risk Capital and Technology Finance Corporation

768. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the setting up of a Risk Capital and Technology Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when it is likely to start operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A proposal regarding setting up of Risk Capital and Technology Finance Corporation is under the consideration of the Government.

Fund for North Madras Thermal Plan from Asian Development Bank

769. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Asian Development Bank has chosen the proposed North Madras Thermal Plan of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board as its first project to be funded in the sub-continent; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir. The North Madras Thermal Power Project which is still to be approved by the Board of ADB will be the second project to be funded by the Asian Development Bank.